

July 23, 2012

Bob Zeigler  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator  
WDFW Regulatory Services Section  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RE: DNS #12-052 Whiskey Dick Road Improvement

Mr. Zeigler,

First of all, I wonder if Ms. Kristen Kuykendall (SEPA applicant) has ever been on this road. The Whiskey Dick Ridge road is no better or worse than other roads on WLA.

REF: The Environmental Checklist

## **A. BACKGROUND**

11. The majority of Whiskey Dick Ridge road is on very steep side hills. Cutting into the up hill side to make the 12 ft road bed (which actually turns out to be 20 ft with the shoulder and ditch) will expose a large amount of bare soil that can be seen for miles and be an attractant for weeds. Re-vegetation is very expensive and time intensive.

12. Section 7 in T17N; R22E was omitted.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

e. "Up to 100 CY of crushed rock may be hauled in to cover dusty areas." 100 CY (12" wide and 12" deep) will cover approximately 227 ft.

### **3. Water**

a. (1 & 2) Talk about work to be done on the Whiskey Dick Creek road. This SEPA is supposed to deal with the Whiskey Dick Ridge road only.

### **4. Plants**

a. There are no deciduous trees on or near the Whiskey Dick Ridge road.

b. Willows and wild rose will not grow on the ridge top without an artificial water source.

## **5. Animals**

b. The only documented Upper Columbia River Steelhead are near the mouth of the creek in the Columbia River. Upper Whiskey Dick Creek is dry except for one crossing.

d. Why would the WDFW want to improve the ridge road and increase traffic?

## **8. Land and shoreline use**

e. This area is zoned AGRICULTURE/COMMERCIAL by Kittitas County.

## **10. Aesthetics**

b. The scars on the side hills will be visible for miles.

c. Re-seeding with native vegetation is very expensive. The success of reseeding on a basalt ridge is very unlikely.

## **14. Transportation**

f. Why would the WDFW want to increase vehicle traffic on ridge tops, when some biologists are concerned about disturbing elk?

The DNS states that: “This project addresses the improvement of the ridge road only,…”  
But on map sheet 3 of 6, Point #903, 904, 905 are not crossed out and Point #900, 901, 902 and the road block are. If this project deals to improvement on the ridge road only, shouldn't they all be removed?

At what point does benefit vs. cost come into play? WDFW has never done any maintenance on any of these roads in the past and why would this road be different from any other? Will upgrading and maintenance occur on all of these roads?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

W.R. Essman  
8770 Brick Mill Road  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
509-968-4532